



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2007

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Rep. Shuler Calls for Resignation of Rep. William Jefferson

Washington, D.C. – Yesterday afternoon U.S. Representative Heath Shuler called for the immediate resignation of Representative William Jefferson (D-LA) in a posting on his blog.

Earlier this week Rep. Jefferson was indicted on 16 criminal counts including bribery, racketeering, obstruction of justice, and using his office to solicit bribes.

In the posting Rep. Shuler wrote, “The charges that have been filed against Mr. Jefferson are extremely serious. Of course in our legal system Mr. Jefferson is considered innocent until proven guilty in the court of law. However, the leaders of our Nation are held, and should be held, to higher standards. It is imperative that the people of the United States know that their elected representatives are not abusing their power or the public trust.”

“Mr. Jefferson’s actions – along with the conviction of super-lobbyist Jack Abramoff and the actions of former Representatives Tom DeLay, Duke Cunningham, and Bob Ney – have understandably shaken the confidence of the people in the legislative branch. The actions of these few have brought dishonor and shame upon the United States House of Representatives and stained this institution.”

“While every American suffers when a scandal of this magnitude hits the House, it’s important for us all to realize how much the people of Mr. Jefferson’s district are suffering. The people of Louisiana’s 2nd District endured through Hurricane Katrina, and now have been left without effective representation here in Congress. Mr. Jefferson’s guilt or innocence in a court of law will take months and possibly years to be finally decided. It is remarkably unfair for the people of his district to be forced to wait for that court decision until they can once again have effective representation.”

“Therefore, I strongly believe that for the good of this Institution, for the good of our Nation, and for the good of the people of the Louisiana’s 2nd District, Mr. Jefferson should resign his seat immediately.”

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